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SOURCE Kuang-min Jih-pao.

KANSU TIBETANS, COMMUNISTS HOLD JOINT CELEBRATION
ON ACCESSION OF LIVING BUDDHA

Sian, 1 Apr (Hsin-hua) -- On 3 March 1950, at the famous center of Lama temples in Labrang, Kansu, more than 20,000 Tibetans, including priests and people from Kansu, Tsinghai, and the northwest border of Szechwan, celebrated the accession of Chia-mu-yang VI as a living Buddha with elaborate religious ceremonies in accordance with Tibetan custom.

Also in attendance were representatives of the Kansu People's government and of the Communist Party Committees of Kansu Province and Lin-hsia district. The political and party representatives took this occasion to explain the principles of the Common Program of the CPPCC, particularly the policy of equality, unity, and cooperation toward the various minority nationalities in China.

The hu-t'u-k'e-t'us and priests of all the temples represented in this gathering were much impressed by these statements, and sent telegrams conveying their respects to the Central People's government and the Northwest Military Administration Council. The substance of the telegrams was as follows:

"We are very appreciative of the Chinese Communist Party's and the Central People's government's great and noble policy of respect for the customs, habits, and freedom of religious beliefs of minority people. We clearly recognize that KMT statements to the effect that the CCP followed a policy of 'wipe out religion, kill the priests, burn the temples,' were nothing but shameful and deceitful propaganda. Priests and laity alike swear that we will unite under the leadership of the Central People's government and the Chinese Communist Party to strive for the realization of the principles of the Common Program."

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